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Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday 27 July 1978 CG NIDC 78/174

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

State Dept. review completed

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DIA review(s) completed.

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday, 27 July 1978.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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LEBANON: Situation Report

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[redacted] Christian militia units are reinforcing their positions south of Beirut as fighting continues in the Christian town of Hadath.

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[redacted] Sources of the US defense attache in Beirut report that the militias have brought up mortars and possibly some artillery to support their forces in the town. One source reports that the Christians responded to Syrian artillery fire yesterday with mortars.

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[redacted] Hadath is a stronghold of former Lebanese President Camille Shamun, who has demanded a complete Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. The militiamen in Hadath appear to have taken few casualties during the clashes, which broke out on Saturday, and continue to provoke the Syrians with sniper fire.

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[redacted] The Syrians are taking numerous casualties--press reports indicate that at least 35 Syrians have been wounded. Perhaps in response, the Syrians launched their heaviest bombardment of Hadath to date on Tuesday evening. Press reports indicate some fighting in Christian East Beirut as well.

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[redacted] The Damascus press has blamed the Christians for provoking the fighting in Hadath. Nonetheless, the Syrians seem to be increasingly sensitive to charges that they seek hegemony

over Lebanon. Foreign Minister Khaddam in a recent interview reiterated Syria's willingness to withdraw from Lebanon when some stability is restored to the country. Khaddam expressed frustration with the expense of Syria's involvement in Lebanon, which he placed at \$70 million a month.

25X1 [] The US defense attache's sources estimate that 85
percent of Hadath's civilian population has left the area.
25X1 Civilian casualties from the Syrian shelling have been heavy.
[]

NORTH KOREA: Tunneling Activity

25X1 [] *//A US - South Korean detection team has discovered and is trying to neutralize what it believe to be another North Korean tunnel under the Demilitarized Zone. The tunnel passes near Panmunjom and extends several hundred meters under the southern half of the DMZ.//*

25X1 [] *//Two tunnels were detected and neutralized in the western half of the DMZ in 1974 and 1975. The South Koreans believe they have evidence of active North Korean tunneling at several other sites along the Zone, and additional tunnels may have been completed without being discovered.//*

25X1 [] North Korean tunneling was begun in 1971 at the direction of President Kim Il-song and uses military personnel and sophisticated mining equipment. The program has expanded with the steady buildup of North Korea's unconventional forces and could be intended to insert lightly armed infantry close to or behind South Korean forward defense lines. South Korea's fixed defensive positions near the DMZ are vulnerable to attack from the rear. []

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ETHIOPIA: Situation Report

25X1 [] *Ethiopian forces have captured Adi Urgi, a major town some 40 kilometers south of Asmara, and have completed their occupation of Teseney on the Sudanese border.*

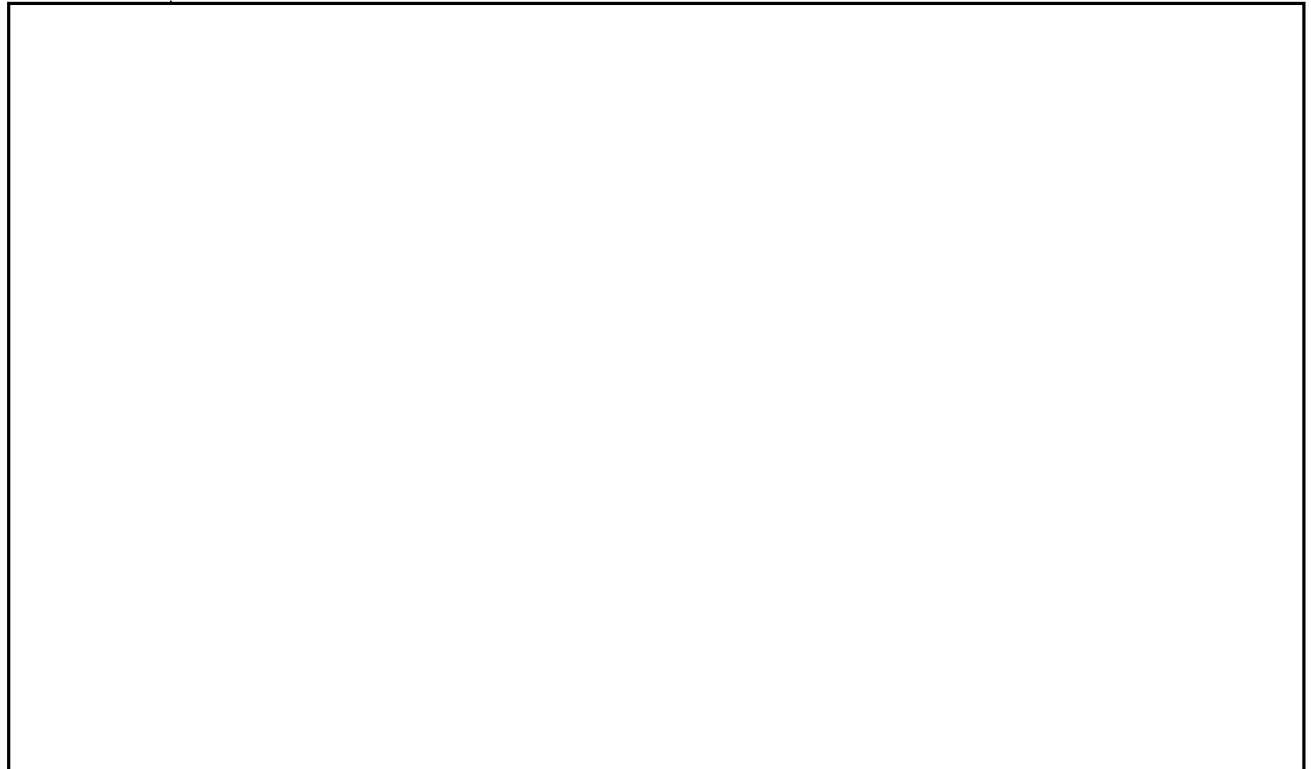
25X1 [] The government's immediate objective is to relieve the sieges of Asmara and Barentu, open the roads and recapture major towns such as Karen and Akordat by 12 September--the fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution.

25X1 [] The Ethiopian gains have come at the expense of the Eritrean Liberation Front. The ELF, which has been losing strength to the rival Eritrean People's Liberation Front in recent months, has had the difficult job of defending the open terrain along the Sudanese border and the main road from Adwa to Asmara. The two factions had planned a joint political command, but their fighting forces remain separate.



25X1 [] The hardest fighting will take place when government forces attempt to move into more rugged terrain and confront the more powerful EPLF forces. At present there would appear to be no prospects for negotiations to end the fighting. []

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BOLIVIA: President Pereda's Plans

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[] In his first major address since he took power last week, Bolivian President Pereda has pledged to continue--with modifications--the democratization process set in motion by former President Banzer. He ignored opposition demands for a new presidential election.

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[] At the swearing-in ceremony for his new cabinet, Pereda renewed his pledge to seek national unity, promised to present a "plan of reform" to facilitate popular participation in government, and stressed the observance of human rights. Approximately 100 politicians and trade union members who were arrested last week, however, are still in custody.

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[] Most major political leaders remain in hiding while bidding for international support for a new election--an effort meeting with little success. The Bolivian Foreign Ministry reports that Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and the USSR have recognized the Pereda government, and others seem sure to follow. The most vocal critic of the new government, Venezuelan President Perez, appears to be getting nowhere with his attempts to have the Organization of American States review the Bolivian situation.

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USSR: Changes on SA-8 Missile

25X1 [] *The Soviets apparently have modified their SA-8 tactical surface-to-air missile system to increase its firepower and reliability.*

25X1 [] The SA-8 is a mobile, low- to medium-altitude air defense system that is being deployed with Soviet ground forces in the USSR and East Germany. [] an SA-8 launch vehicle in East Germany showed that it was equipped to fire six missiles instead of the four that have been associated with the system.

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25X1 [] In addition, the missiles apparently will now be fired directly from their shipping containers, which would probably increase missile loading speed as well as protect the missiles, thereby increasing their reliability.

25X1 [] There are currently three Soviet SA-8 regiments in East Germany, each of which probably has 20 launch vehicles. We do not know how many of these are the modified type. With the modified vehicles, the number of missiles on launcher rails in a regiment would increase from 80 to 120. []

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Eastern Europe

25X1 [] Grain harvest conditions are deteriorating across Eastern Europe, indicating that this year's crop will be less than the 93 million tons we forecast earlier this month. The weather outlook for the region remains unfavorable as frequent storms delay and complicate the harvest. Damage from wind and rain so far is most severe in Hungary and in Czechoslovakia.

25X1 [] The high moisture content of the cut grain is taxing drying facilities. While some of the wheat will be too poor for breadmaking, almost all of the grain can be used for live-stock feed. []

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